

JUVENILE MISSIONARY TRACTS.

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NAOMI,  
THE HINDOO WIDOW.



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[100.]



# NAOMI,

## THE HINDOO WIDOW.



BENARES is one of the largest cities in the East Indies. As it is full of heathen temples, and thousands of brahmins dwell there, it is called "the holy city," and is said to be sacred for ten miles

## NAOMI.

round. The houses would appear to us very strange, as they are painted of a bright red colour, and covered with figures of their gods and goddesses, with elephants and cows as large as life, along with flower-pots and many other things. It is a place of great wealth, great idolatry, and great wickedness.

The aged and sick are brought to this place from all parts of the country, as the people believe that all who die within its walls are sure to be happy after death. On the outside of the town crowds of Hindoos are seen plunging into the river Ganges, in the hope that the waters of the "sacred river" will wash away their sins.

In this city lived Ram Rutten, a Hindoo of respectable family. He had been from his youth a very strict idolater. One day, a Christian tract was put into his hands. He read it, and it awakened a desire to know more about the truths which he had therein learned for the first time. He was, for some time, like the treasurer of queen Candace, of whom we read in the Acts of the Apostles, viii. 26—40. He read the truth, but did not

understand what it meant, for no Philip came to instruct him. As he knew no one who could guide him, he left his home to search after a teacher of the truth; and in his travels he came to a place where there was a native Christian, who talked to him, and then sent him with a letter to a missionary that he might be further instructed. After he had been with the missionary, he learned more about the way of salvation; but, as he was very proud of heart, he did not humble himself and believe in Christ as the Saviour of sinners. He then went away from his teacher, and joined the enemies of the gospel. Still he was not happy; and at length came back, saying that he could no longer refuse to believe the truth. From this time he lived as a true Christian; and at his baptism took the name of Nathaniel, as he wished to be like him, a man in whom there was no guile. His three little boys he named Abel, Noah, and Moses; for converts from among the heathen chose to have Scripture names for themselves and their children.



## NAOMI.

His wife, like all the women of India, had never been taught to read or write. She went daily to the Orphan Girl's School to learn. Her husband prayed much for her, that the Lord in his mercy might open her heart, as he did the heart of Lydia, Acts xvi. 14. But when he spoke to her on the subject of religion, she said to him, "And do you really believe that God sent his Son from heaven to die for sinners? I can never believe that. If we were good people, I could believe that he might send his Son to teach us; but for such sinners as we are, he would never send his Son to die!" It is indeed a very wonderful thing that God should so love the world, as to send Jesus Christ to die on the cross that we might be saved; and it is not surprising that this poor heathen woman should think it too good to be true, when she heard it for the first time.

But we know that it is true, for the Bible, the book of God, tells us so. She was, for some time, unwilling to give her heart to the Saviour. But he is gracious, and can soon humble proud

sinner. He had knocked at the door of her heart by the preaching of his word, but she did not regard it. He now knocked and alarmed her by the death of her husband and her children. Ram Rutten—or, as he should now be called, Nathaniel—died trusting in Christ, and believing that he should rise from the dead and possess eternal life. His widow wept, but still she did not love the Saviour who was so precious to her departed husband; for her heart was not yet broken and humbled.

One of her sons became unwell, and after some time he died. She wept for her son, but did not weep for her sins. A second son was taken ill, and died likewise; she felt her loss, but still she did not submit her heart to Christ. Her third son, Noah, to whom she looked as her comfort and support, next sickened; and it pleased the Lord to remove him also—"the only son of his mother." In great distress of mind she now cried, "It is enough! Lord, it is enough; I will humble myself; I will bow to thee!" The Lord softened her heart, and she learned that he had done

## NAOMI.

right in taking away her husband and her three children. She was now led to put her whole trust in Christ, and grew in grace.

When she was baptized, she was asked what name she wished to be called? She said, "Call me Naomi, for the Lord hath dealt with me as he dealt with her. I was full when I came, but now I am empty," Ruth i. 21. Thus, at last, she was enabled to say with the psalmist, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes," Psa. cxix. 71.

Would you like to know what has become of Naomi? The last accounts the missionaries have sent, tell us, that she is living in the city of Benares, engaged in teaching little orphan girls, and is an ornament to the faith she professes. May the Lord bless her instructions, in leading many little Hindoo orphans to know and love the Lord our Saviour.

In this little account we see the promise fulfilled: "I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh," Ezek. xxxvi. 26.



## NAOMI.

A "stony heart!" Would you know what this saying means? Take a stone in your hands—even the prettiest you can find: feel it; is it not *hard*? You can make no impression on it. It is *cold*; and if you place it in the rays of the sun, it will soon again lose the little heat it has received. It is *heavy*; and if you throw it high in the air, it will quickly fall back to the earth. It is *barren*, and we expect neither pretty flowers nor pleasant fruit from it, plant it where we may. Like unto a stone, then, is the heart of man: sin has made it hard, cold, heavy, and barren; and in this state it will remain until it is taken away by the Holy Spirit of God. Then a "heart of flesh" is given; which is soft, and soon receives impression; is warm and lively in the ways of God; rises upwards to heaven in holy thoughts and desires; and brings forth "the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God," Phil. i. 11. May all who read these pages seek a "new heart" without delay. Seek it in prayer—seek it by faith in Jesus Christ, who has

NAOMI.

promised the grace and light of the Holy Spirit to all who ask.

Now, in my early days,  
Teach me thy will to know ;  
O Lord, thy sanctifying grace  
Betimes on me bestow.

Make my unguarded youth  
The object of thy care ;  
Help me to choose the way of truth,  
And flee from every snare.

My heart, to folly prone,  
Renew by power Divine ;  
Unite it to thyself alone,  
And make me wholly thine.

Lord, let thy word of grace  
My warmest thoughts employ ;  
Be this, through all my future days,  
My treasure and my joy.



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O THOU who art the God of truth,  
Pardon the follies of my youth,  
The secret sins of heart and thought,  
And all the ill that I have wrought.

Oh where can trembling sinners flee?  
To no one, Jesus, save to thee;  
Thy life and death, thy cross and  
grave,  
Proclaim thy willingness to save.

To me thy tender mercy show,  
Thy great salvation may I know;  
And by thy Spirit's grace impart  
To me a new and holy heart.